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Message Text

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12
ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 BIB-01 EB-07 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 L-03

SS-15 NSC-05 SIL-01 LAB-04 MMO-01 PRS-01 /055 W
---------- 034632
P R 270910Z FEB 76
FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7255
USIA WASHDC
INFO AMCONGEN NAHA
VOA OKINAWA

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 2959

USIA FOR IBS/E LANGENBECK 169

E.O. 11652: ADS DECLAS MAY 15, 1977
TAGS: SCUL, PFOR, TECH, AFSP, JA
SUBJ: VOA CLOSURE ARRANGMENTS

REF: VOA OKINAWA 019 USIS 5433

1. EMBASSY OFFICER MET WITH FONOFF FIRST NORTH AMERICAN BUREAU
BUREAU FEB 23 TO REVIEW USG PREPARATIONS FOR VOA CLOSURE AND TO
SOLICIT FONOFF VIEWS CONCERNING PARTICIPATION BY VOA EMPLOYEES IN
JAPANESE UNEMPLOYMENT PLAN. FONOFF SAID THAT IT HAD ALREADY
BEEN CONSULTING WITH MINISTRY OF LABOR AND HAD DETERMINED THAT
IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE FOR VOA EMPLOYEES TO PARTICIPATE IN THE
UNEMPLOYMENT PLAN. FONOFF NOTED THAT UNDER PLAN FULL COVERAGE REQUIRES

THAT CONTRIBUTIONS TO SYSTEM COVER PERIOD OF 12 MONTHS PRIOR
TO SEPARATION AND URGED THAT USG TAKE STEPS TO BEGIN COVERAGE
AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. HE POINTED OUT THAT USG EFFORTS IN THIS
RESPECT WOULD HAVE A VERY POSITIVE PSYCHOLOGICAL EFFECT WHICH
WOULD BE VERY USEFUL SINCE THE NEGOTIATIONS FOR VOA CLOSE-OUT
WOULD BE VERY THORNY. EMBASSY OFFICER POINTED OUT THAT WE
WERE CONSIDERING LEGALITY OF PARTICIPATION THAT WE HOPED TO
FIND SOME WAY FOR PARTICIPATION AND THAT WE WOULD BE IN TOUCH
AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.
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2. FONOFF POINTED OUT THAT USG CONTRIBUTION UNDER THE UN-
EMPLOYMENT INSURANCE PLAN WOULD BE .8PERCENT OF EMPLOYEE SALARY
WITH EMPLOYEE CONTRIBUTING .5PERCENT FOR TOTAL OF 1.3PERCENT.
DEPARTMENT SHOULD NOT COMPLETELY OVERLOOK POSSIBILITY THAT
MISSION COULD IN FURTURE FACE SIMILAR DEMANDS FROM LOCAL
EMPLOYEES ALTHOUGH DESIRABILITY SUCH PARTICIPATION WOULD
BE QUESTIONABLE IF EMPLOYEES WERE FORCED (AS WE UNDERSTAND
IT WOULD BE IN CASE OF THE EMBASSY) TO MAKE PRIOR DEPOSITS TO COVER
ENTIRE PERIOD OF EMPLOYMETN.

3. EMBASSY STRONGLY HOPES THAT WAY CAN BE FOUND TO
PERMIT FULL PARTICIPATION IN THE GOJ UNEMPLOYEMTNT PLAN FOR
ALL OF THE VOA EMPLOYEES. LABOR PROBLEM IS ONE OF THE MOST
POLITICALLY SENSITIVE ASPECTS OF THE VOA CLOSEDOWN AND
PARTICIPATION IN UNEMPLOYMENT SYSTEM WOULD ANSER THE ONE
REQUEST DIRECTED TO USG BY VOA EMPLOYEES WHO FACE VERY DIM
PROSPECTS FOR REEMPLOYMENT IN OKINAWA WHICH HAS THE HIGHEST
UNEMPLOYMENT RATE BY FAR IN JAPAN. PROMPT RESOLUTION OF THIS
MATTER WOULD ALSO MINIMIZE CHANCES THAT LABOR SUPPORTERS
WILL TRY TO MAKE ISSUE OUT OF VOA CLOSEDOWN.

4. WOULD APPRECIATE RESPONSE ASAP.
HODGSON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: LABOR RELATIONS, RADIO BROADCASTING, CLOSURE OF OFFICES, UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 27 FEB 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ElyME
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976TOKYO02959
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: AS MAY 15, 1977
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760074-0299
From: TOKYO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t1976023/aaaaabwk.tel
Line Count: 84
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ElyME
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <27 MAY 2004 by SmithRJ>; APPROVED <24 SEP 2004 by ElyME>
Review Markings:

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US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: VOA CLOSURE ARRANGMENTS
TAGS: SCUL, PFOR, TECH, AFSP, ETEL, ELAB, JA, US, VOA
To: STATE USIA
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006